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Sixty-fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War

Letter dated 4 May 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the message from President Dmitry Medvedev of the Russian Federation to the special solemn meeting of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly in commemoration of all victims of the Second World War (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter and the accompanying message to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 126.

(*Signed*) V. **Churkin**

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Annex to the letter dated 4 May 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Message to the special solemn meeting of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly in commemoration of all victims of the Second World War

Moscow

3 May 2010

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

I extend my cordial greetings to those participating in the special solemn meeting of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly in commemoration of all victims of the Second World War.

The Great Victory over fascism was won 65 years ago. The schemes of the perfidious aggressors who had drawn more than 60 nations into bloody conflict ended in failure. The fearsome threat to the very underpinnings of civilization was rebuffed, at the cost of immense common efforts and severe losses. The memory of the heroism of all who fought selflessly for the sake of future generations and who brought shared victory ever closer lives on in our hearts.

Losses were sustained by virtually every family in the Soviet Union, which felt the full force of Hitler's military machine. The tens of millions of lost lives will remain forever in our memories. Nor shall we forget the worldwide outpouring of support and genuine compassion during those tragic years. People and nations continents apart, conscious that annihilation loomed, united in solidarity, forming a common front to fight for a just cause.

All of these things shall we recall with pain and with pride during the upcoming commemorations in Moscow on 9 May 2010. We shall pay tribute to the heroism of the veterans, and of all of those who warded off global catastrophe. I should like to take this opportunity to thank the Heads of State and Government and all foreign guests who will take part in the events, for in Russia this public holiday has a special meaning.

As we remember the events of that merciless war today, we must recognize the horrific consequences of violence and racial and religious intolerance. This lends new significance to the task of strengthening the United Nations, established by the international community to prevent future wars. Throughout all of these many years, the United Nations has continued to serve as the foundation for contemporary international relations. Its goals remain relevant. The most important one is to consolidate a just world order, based upon the principles of humanism and mutually beneficial cooperation, effective maintenance of international peace and security and contribution to progressive development in the political, socio-economic, cultural, humanitarian and other arenas.

The horrifying lessons of the Second World War have taught us to join together to combat contemporary threats and to respect the international legal norms without which a secure existence and a stable world order are not possible. Only the united

efforts of the entire international community will enable us to effectively confront terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, transnational crime, drug trafficking and all forms of discrimination.

The victory was attained at the cost of enormous loss of life. With that always in mind, we must stand up to cynical, politically motivated attempts to rewrite history and to revise the conclusions and verdicts of the Nuremburg Tribunal. It is our common duty both to the liberators and to future generations to defend the truth about the War and the meaning of the victory and decisively resist those who besmirch the honour of the heroes who crushed fascism.

Let us never forget all those who laid down their lives on the altar of victory, who perished in battle, died of their wounds or exhaustion or endured torments in the concentration camps. Let us bow low our heads before their cherished memory.

Dmitry **Medvedev**